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April 29, 2014

The Honorable John Koskinen
Commissioner of Internal Revenue
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 3000
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Koskinen:

I'm writing to express my deep concern and dismay at recent reports that millions of dollars in bonuses and time-off awards were paid to Internal Revenue Service Employees who owed the U.S. government taxes. The report from the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration report states that 1,100 IRS employees with documented tax compliance issues received more than \$1 million in cash bonuses and 10,000 hours in time-off awards from October 2010 to December 2012. We must immediately take action to rescind these bonuses until the owed taxes are paid and make sure the IRS does not give out future bonuses to employees who owe the government taxes.

Many middle class families are working hard and playing by the rules, but still struggling to make ends meet during this sluggish economic recovery. They deserve the United States government to use taxpayer dollars wisely and to tackle our deficit so that our next generation isn't buried under a mountain of debt. Reports like these only add to the American people's declining confidence in their government; this situation is unacceptable and needs to be rectified as quickly as possible.

The Inspector General has recommended that the IRS limit all future bonuses and performance awards to employees who are fully compliant with Federal tax law. Senator Joe Manchin III has also suggested that the agency rescind the awards provided to the 1,100 employees with tax compliance problems between 2010 and 2012, and hold each bonus in escrow until outstanding tax compliance problems are addressed. I fully agree with both recommendations and request that they be addressed with the attention and expedience they deserve.

Be Well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ami Bera".

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress